

House Concurrent Resolution 4 - Introduced

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY WILLS, STONE, WESTRICH, BRADLEY, MOORE, JENEARY,
DOLECHECK, FISHER, BAXTER, and SHIPLEY

1 A Concurrent Resolution urging Congress to reassert
2 its constitutional authority over international
3 commerce.

4 WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 8 of the United States
5 Constitution confers upon Congress the exclusive
6 authority "[t]o regulate Commerce with foreign
7 Nations..."; and

8 WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 8 of the United States
9 Constitution states that "[t]he Congress shall have
10 the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts
11 and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the
12 common Defense and general Welfare of the United
13 States..."; and

14 WHEREAS, international commerce is a global and
15 domestic economic engine that supports millions of jobs
16 across the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, tariffs are taxes that are placed on goods
18 entering the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, the cost of tariffs is ultimately borne by
20 American consumers through higher prices, which may
21 harm the American workers and families tariffs purport
22 to help; and

23 WHEREAS, many United States manufacturers rely on
24 imported components, and the tariffs imposed on those
25 imported components have threatened the manufacturing
26 jobs they were intended to protect and have undermined
27 America's enviable economic growth; and

1 WHEREAS, proposals to impose a 25 percent tariff
2 on imported automobiles and automobile components
3 would ultimately increase prices for consumers, put
4 American jobs at risk, and are opposed by the United
5 States automobile industry because they would harm that
6 industry and many related industries; and

7 WHEREAS, the International Emergency Economic Powers
8 Act authorizes the President of the United States to
9 take certain actions with respect to international
10 commerce following the declaration of a national
11 emergency; and

12 WHEREAS, Congress delegated to the President of
13 the United States limited power to enact tariffs in
14 certain circumstances through the enactment of the
15 Trade Expansion Act of 1962; and

16 WHEREAS, several legal scholars regard using the
17 threat of tariffs under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962
18 as leverage in trade negotiations as unlawful given the
19 Act's singular focus on national security threats; and

20 WHEREAS, using national security as a rationale
21 to impose tariffs on our closest allies and other
22 strategic economic partners reduces their incentive to
23 cooperate with the United States on trade challenges
24 that are of mutual concern; NOW THEREFORE,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
26 SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly calls on
27 Congress to reassert its authority under Article 1,
28 Section 8 of the United States Constitution to regulate
29 international commerce and the enactment of tariffs;
30 and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly
2 calls on Congress to approve legislation to require
3 congressional approval in order for tariffs to be
4 imposed under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of
5 1962 and the International Emergency Economic Powers
6 Act; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
9 United States, the United States Secretary of State,
10 the United States Trade Representative, the Director
11 of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy, the
12 chairperson and ranking member of the United States
13 Senate Committee on Finance, the chairperson and
14 ranking member of the United States House Committee on
15 Ways and Means, and each member of Iowa's congressional
16 delegation.